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Twenty-first Biennial Report of  
the Board of Trustees

OF THE

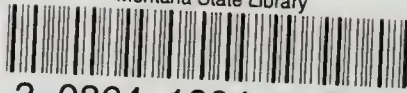
# Historical Society of Montana



1931-1932

NEW HAMPSHIRE  
STATE LIBRARY

Montana State Library



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Twenty-first Biennial Report of  
the Board of Trustees  
OF THE  
Historical Society  
of Montana



1931-1932



PRESIDENTS AND LIBRARIANS  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

From date of organization March 25, 1865.

## PRESIDENTS

[illegible]

## LIBRARIAN

[illegible]

OFFICERS  
OF THE  
HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA  
1932

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BOARD OF TRUSTEES

Josephine I. Hepner, President	- - - - -	Helena, Montana
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HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA  
TWENTY-FIRST BIENNIAL REPORT TO  
GOVERNOR JOHN E. ERICKSON  
1932

Helena, Montana,  
Nov. 1, 1932.

Hon. John E. Erickson,  
Governor of Montana,  
Helena, Montana.

Dear Sir:

We have the honor to submit herewith the twenty-first biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for the years 1931-1932 in compliance with the statute requirements.

We are respectfully,

Your obedient servants,

JOSEPHINE I. HEPNER,  
President.

O. F. GODDARD  
M. M. DUNCAN  
HARRY B. MITCHELL  
DAVID HILGER

# REPORT OF THE LIBRARIAN

## OF THE

### HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF MONTANA

Helena, Montana,  
Nov. 1, 1932.

To the Board of Trustees of the  
Historical Society of Montana.  
Mrs. Josephine I. Hepner, President.

Members of the Board:

We have the honor to submit our twenty-first biennial report of the Historical Society of Montana for 1931-1932 according to statute requirements.

For the period including July 1, 1931 to July 1, 1933, this department has operated under a legislative appropriation of \$5,415.00 per annum. The appropriation was divided into the following budgets:

Salary, librarian, per annum .....	\$2,400.00
Salary, Assistant Librarian, per annum .....	1,800.00
Capital repairs and replacements .....	675.00
Other operating expenses .....	540.00
Total .....	\$5,415.00

At the request of the State Board of Examiners a voluntary reduction of ten per cent for the year ending June 30, 1933 was agreed to by this department. The reduction of \$541.50 will make our allowance for this year \$4,863.50, one of the lowest since the organization of this department and will, naturally, handicap the work of the Society but we are glad and willing to do our share towards keeping within the income of the state.

At our request House Bill No. 363 was introduced at the last session of the legislature and passed by both houses and approved Mar. 9, 1931. This bill appropriated the sum of \$3,000.00 or as much thereof as might be required for "the purpose of conditioning the basement under the present historical library quarters in the extreme southeast corner of the capitol building, by the construction of a fire wall and a stairway leading from the library proper; for the installation of metal doors and metal shelving to accommodate bound newspapers, books, records and historical documents; for the safeguarding against fire and theft of valuable historical records."

This expenditure was under the direction of the State Board of Examiners and the appropriation of \$3,000.00 was expended as follows:



Basement walls, doors, stairway, etc.....	\$1,204.90
Metal shelving and cases.....	951.39
Plumbing, electrical wiring, etc.....	149.66
Labor, moving, cleaning, etc.....	280.00
Total.....	<u>\$2,585.95</u>

This leaves a neat balance and what is not used will revert to the general fund. We are under obligation to Governor Erickson and the other members of the State Board of Examiners for the careful and economical manner in which this improvement was made. As the building of a separate home for our Society seems to be indefinitely postponed this additional room is of great help in providing space for the storing of much material, especially the newspapers.

Our newspaper files are very complete beginning with the first paper published in Montana, the Montana Post (Virginia City) Aug. 27, 1864 up to the latest issue of any Montana newspaper. It should be noted that all our papers have been donated to the Society by the publishers otherwise we could never under our limited appropriation own the splendid collection we now have. Recent reductions in our allowance limit the binding of newspapers to just the dailies and this year we will not have funds for that. However, all the papers are preserved, tied in bundles which are placed on the shelves and can be consulted at all times. The papers deteriorate rapidly when folded and should be bound as soon as possible in order to preserve this priceless material for the future historian. We sincerely hope that when conditions right themselves we will have funds for this purpose.

I have repeatedly called the attention of the legislative body to the necessity of an appropriation of at least \$500.00 to \$1,000.00 for the publication of the annual volume of "Contributions" but to no avail. We have the material for volume ten ready for the printer in the shape of the Fort Benton Journal of 1855-1856. This book when published will be a most valuable contribution to the history of the northwest and the fur trade.

The necessity for strict economy in these strenuous times is realized by this department but as our Society is one of the oldest branches of the state government having been created by the first territorial legislature of 1864-65 and the appropriation the lowest we have had for many years it means that little can be done towards keeping up our work. We are fortunate in receiving many donations from citizens who are generous and thoughtful of our Society when disposing of historically valuable items.

We have had our usual quota of people engaged in research work along historical lines both from our own state and others. These people are especially qualified from their experiences in other libraries of similar nature to judge of the value of ours and all are unanimous in their praise both of the collection and the administration of the

library. Such commendation makes us feel that the work is worthwhile even if our funds are not sufficient to do what we would if the money were available.

There is much that I would like to cover in this report but with the need for economy in all things I must make this document as brief as possible.

I wish to extend my thanks to the State Board of Examiners, and the various state departments for the uniform courtesy extended to myself and Mrs. McDonnell. My assistant, Mrs. Anne McDonnell, is well known as an authority on northwest history, which makes her research work in that field valuable to our patrons.

Both Mrs. McDonnell and myself are deeply appreciative of and grateful for the helpful co-operation of the members of the Board of Trustees of the Historical Society of Montana and take this opportunity of expressing our sincere thanks for your kindness.

Respectfully submitted,

DAVID HILGER, Librarian.

**Books Accessioned During 1931-1932**

General works, newspapers, periodicals, etc.....	177
Philosophy .....	1
Religion .....	10
Sociology .....	66
Natural science .....	5
Useful arts .....	10
Literature .....	9
Genealogy, history and travel .....	208
Biography .....	38
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Total.....	514

We also received the legislative journals and departmental reports of other states in addition to many volumes of United States documents which add much to the usefulness of the library for reference purposes.

**Gifts Other Than Books Received During 1931-1932**

Framed portraits of:

Samuel O. Fletcher

Gov. Samuel V. Stewart

Mr. and Mrs. Kieley

Arthur P. Curtin

Hugh Kirkendall

Water color sketch of Fort Owen mill by Peter Tofft

One ox yoke

One pair of wooden stirrups

Chinese knife and carved sheath

Saw used in making coffin for body of Henry Plummer

Collection of newspapers, photographs, etc., from estate of Arthur P. Curtin

Military collection of the late Maj. John R. Miller.









